

HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIC ASSISTANCE (HCA) PROGRAM

Mission: U.S. military forces are permitted to carry out humanitarian assistance projects and activities in foreign countries in conjunction with approved military operational deployments and are authorized by 10 U.S.C. section 401, DoD Directive 2205.2 and DoD Instruction 2205.3. These deployments (managed by the geographic Combatant Commanders) are necessary to maintain a forward U.S. military presence, ensure operational readiness to respond to crises, and prepare the Reserve Components for their wartime missions.

HCA activities must promote the security interests of both the U.S. and the recipient countries, and enhance the specific operational skills of the members of the armed forces who participate. Humanitarian and civic assistance may not be provided (directly or indirectly) to any individual, group, or organization engaged in military or paramilitary activity except when such an activity is the primary support for the civilian population. The State Department must approve all HCA initiatives.

Typical HCA projects include medical, surgical, dental, and veterinary care provided in rural areas, construction of rudimentary surface transport systems, well drilling and construction of basic sanitation facilities, rudimentary construction and repair of public facilities, and other medical and engineering projects.

Congress appropriates funding to the military departments to support HCA programs. The Military Departments (MILDEP) act as the Executive Agents for the Combatant Commanders. The Army allocates funds to USEUCOM and USSOUTHCOM; the Navy funds USPACOM; and the Air Force funds USCENTCOM. Authority for the MILDEP to fund HCA activities is contained in section 8009, Public Law 109-148, the DoD Appropriations Act, 2006.

For FY 2003, the Combatant Commands obligated \$6.7 million for projects in 36 countries. In FY 2004, 161 projects were completed in 42 countries at an expense of \$7.2 million. During FY 2005 161 projects in 42 developing countries were completed with a total cost of \$7.2 million.

DSCA RESPONSIBILITIES: The Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) is the DoD approval authority for all HCA projects proposed by the Combatant Commanders.

HDM RESPONSIBILITIES: Program manager for DoD-wide HCA programs. HDM manages the process of interagency review and approval for the annual project submissions for HCA and all out-of-cycle requests submitted by the combatant commands. HDM is also responsible for monitoring the overall program to ensure that nominations comply fully with relevant legislation, U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives before formal project approval is rendered. HDM prepares the annual report to Congress required by 10USC401 and section 8009, Public Law 109-148, the DoD Appropriations Act, 2006.